

Consumer Protection

Your private cell phone number should be kept private – it’s as simple as that. We passed legislation requiring a customer’s consent before any disclosure of their cell phone numbers. A successful measure two years ago stops wireless telephone companies from publishing a citizen’s phone number in a directory without first getting the citizen’s approval. But this year’s bill is needed to extend restrictions to halt third parties from sharing these numbers.

We also passed HB 1031 protecting consumers from “Spy Chips”. This bill is aimed at subduing modern-day thieves who are determined to exploit information garnered through a relatively new technology called radio-frequency identification (RFID). This tracking, or “data skimming,” as it’s called, allows someone to read your chip without your permission. This law makes that a Class C felony. You might be surprised to find that companies place these chips in everything from goods you buy to customer loyalty cards to even your credit cards, and they can be read from over 30 feet away with a handheld scanner.

Finally

Feel free to call me this summer; I work for you all year long. Whether it is an idea on legislation or a problem with a governmental agency, I am here to serve you. Thanks!



Christopher
HURST

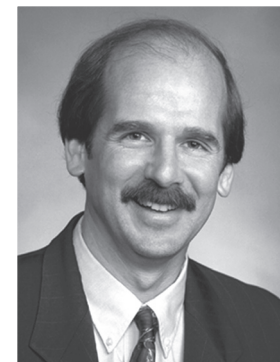
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2008 END OF
SESSION REPORT

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Christopher
HURST

2008 END OF SESSION REPORT

Dear neighbors,

It is great to be back home and working in the district after the end of the legislative session. Sometimes when I am in Olympia I feel like I am on another planet. I always feel like citizens are a little safer when the legislature finally adjourns! Although we do a lot of much important work, you would be amazed by some of the ideas people can come up with down there.

We did pass a stable, balanced supplemental budget, and our fiscal responsibility has been rewarded by our state’s bond rating being raised. This will save Washington taxpayers millions of dollars in interest payments on capitol projects like roads and school construction. Our state budget and surplus, combined with our constitutionally protected rainy day fund, are the envy of the nation in these difficult economic times.

When finished in Olympia, I get back to my most important work – serving you on issues that matter most to you here in the 31st Legislative District. This is our home, where we work and live. Please feel free to call or contact me on anything you think I may be of assistance to you on. I will do my best to serve you. It is an honor to do so.

Sincerely yours,

Christopher Hurst
State Representative
31st Legislative District



Representative Christopher Hurst

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Committees:

- Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness (*Vice Chair*)
- Insurance, Financial Services & Consumer Protection
- Rules
- Technology, Energy & Communications

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This gives the people what they clearly want: more competition and better choices. Citizen after citizen told me they wanted the right to vote for whoever they wanted, without having to pick a party. The top-two primary gives them that right, and that’s good news for our democracy.

Under the top-two primary, the two candidates with the most votes – regardless of party – advance to the general election. But the important part is that we can, once again, vote for anyone we like without having to pick a party ballot. Something I promised you that we could get back, and we have.

Legislature Passes Balanced, Responsible Budget

I’m happy to report that the House and Senate finished work on time and passed a budget that’s not only balanced, but puts \$834 million in the bank for a rainy day.

We balanced the budget without raising taxes and protected the historic investments that the 2007-09 budget made in our public schools and universities.

Washington: A Great Place to Do Business

Other states in the nation are hitting tough times, especially when it comes to the housing crash. Washington State has largely escaped this because our economy, more than any other state, is based on international trade and a sound state budget.

Our workers make the world’s best airplanes (Boeing) and software (Microsoft), and we’re home to other world leaders like Costco, Starbucks and Amazon.com. There are here because Washington State is a great place to do business.

Forbes Magazine ranked our state No. 5 for the best places to start a business, and our state is consistently ranked as among the best run in the nation and one of the best places to live, work and raise a family.

Christopher HURST

New Primary Huge Victory to Washington Voters!

Now that the Supreme Court upheld the top-two primary that citizens approved with Initiative 872, citizens will be able to vote for any candidate without picking a party ballot.

I find this to be a stark contrast with the other Washington; over in D.C., where the White House and Congress have spent almost a decade turning the nation’s biggest surplus into a \$10 trillion national debt.

Our state constitution requires a balanced budget. It’s too bad the federal constitution doesn’t do the same, because the lack of fiscal discipline hurts citizens as the feds spend more and more of our tax dollars on wasteful projects and foreign wars while cutting back on money they used to send to build highways and economic infrastructure. The war in Iraq alone, now in its 6th year, costs you and me almost \$2 *billion* dollars a week.

Gas Prices and the Issues with Importing Foreign Oil

Every time I go to the gas pump, I worry about my son Andrew, who’s in the Army serving his third tour of duty in combat in the Middle East.

Instead of sending our money to strongmen in Iran, Saudi Arabia and other countries who want to harm America every time we fill up our tank, wouldn’t it be great to give that money to our local farmers, growing fuel that’s friendlier to our air, to our pocketbooks and to our national security?

Our addiction to foreign oil is an economic, military and security nightmare. I’m happy that our state passed Energy Freedom and is working toward alternatives to crude oil. We need to do more to wean ourselves from this addiction.

Toxic Toys from China and NAFTA

Since the federal government failed to act, we passed a law in Olympia to make sure the toys your kids play with -- and that toddlers stick in their mouths -- aren’t full of toxins and poisons.

There are other issues that our state must contend with. Part of NAFTA means that trucks from Mexico will soon be allowed to carry cargo on our highways, and some of those semis are much less safe than American ones, because we have tougher safety standards. I think this is a bad idea, not only because of safety issues but because we are exporting too many jobs away from our borders. Jobs that used to pay decent wages here in America. NAFTA was a bad idea when it was passed and time has proven this to be true.

Crime

As a 25-year veteran police detective, I get to use my experience down in Olympia to work on laws to make our communities safe. Laws that actually work on the street and in the courtroom.

We did pass sweeping legislation to address the increased threat of criminal street gangs. I was the prime sponsor of this bi-partisan legislation and am looking forward to its implementation this summer. Our goal is to have fewer gang members in years to come by combining prevention, intervention and suppression together.

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Sex offenders are tough to catch. Victims are traumatized and embarrassed and often don’t want to testify -- or they’re little kids and it’s hard for them to take the stand. All you have is the victim’s testimony and maybe some physical evidence. But unless you already have a suspect, that physical evidence doesn’t do you much good -- who do you compare it to?

I am happy to tell you that we passed a reform this year to require *all* sex offenders, past and present -- plus those convicted of kidnapping -- to submit DNA samples. Police and prosecutors wanted this because it’s the best tool we have to crack all the cold cases where we have DNA evidence but no suspects.

We know that rapists and child molesters commit crimes again and again until they get caught, and that many never get caught for lack of evidence. This reform will help bring many of these criminals to justice.

DUI ignition interlock devices should save 100 lives a year in Washington State. We do put the worst drunks away for long sentences. But we can’t lock everybody up for a life sentence -- the taxpayers couldn’t build enough prisons to do that. Ignition interlocks have worked in other states. People convicted of drunk driving pay for the device to be installed in their car and they can’t start the car without blowing into the tube and getting a clear result.

This bill also requires that out-of-state convictions for drunk driving be included when the courts calculate an offender’s previous offenses and hand down a sentence.

Protecting You Against Stupid Bills

The dumbest bill of the session had to be Senate Bill 6900, which would tax you based on how big your car’s engine was alone. The bigger the engine, the bigger the tax, regardless of any other factor.

Every session, we see bills like this. It doesn’t matter which party is in charge -- when lawmakers introduce 3,000 bills, you can bet on some of those bills being half-baked.

This bill was one of them. It’s the job of those of us who are more moderate and independent to represent our district and stand up to silly ideas.

I’m happy to say this bill never had a chance. If by some miracle it had made its way to the House, it would have been dead on arrival.

Lake Tapps

Good news for Lake Tapps residents who have been patiently waiting for a permanent solution to the crises they have been facing for almost a decade. Pierce County Councilman Shawn Bunney and I hosted a meeting between the Lake Tapps Community Council and Jay Manning, the Director of the Department of Ecology. At this meeting, Mr. Manning committed to preserving the lake levels and to an adaptive management element to the water right they will be issuing soon. We will continue to watch carefully and work this problem until the final permit is issued.